

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

MAR 06 2013

Mr. Sheldon Clare
President
Canada's National Firearms Association
P.O. Box 49090
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4

Dear Mr. Clare:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning restricted and prohibited firearms, restrictions on magazine capacities, and the repeal of the criminal sanctions for possessing a firearm without a licence.

As you know, on April 5, 2012, Bill C-19, *Ending the Long-gun Registry Act*, received Royal Assent and came into force, thereby removing the requirement for individuals and businesses to register non-restricted firearms. This fulfills our Government's long-standing commitment to abolish the long-gun registry. We also said we would destroy all the data associated with the long-gun registry in order to ensure that it is never revived. I am extremely proud to announce that as of October 31, 2012, we have delivered on that commitment, with the exception of data related to non-restricted firearms in Quebec, as that matter continues to be before the courts.

We are steadfast in our resolve to combat the criminal use of firearms. By eliminating the long-gun registry, we can instead focus our efforts on other measures to tackle crime and protect families and communities, rather than needlessly and unfairly targeting law-abiding Canadians.

I would like to thank you for your suggestions regarding further changes to Canada's gun laws. We have recently taken steps to address the concerns of firearms owners with respect to regulations regarding gun shows and the marking of firearms. The *Gun Shows Regulations* have been repealed. The Government has also deferred the coming into force of the *Firearms Marking Regulations* until December 1, 2013, to allow for fulsome consultations regarding amendments to the regulations. With the completion of these initiatives, I will assess the need for further reforms. Your concerns will inform the next steps that we take.

With respect to the classification of firearms, as stated by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Parliament, prohibited firearms exist as a category under the law and our government has absolutely no intention of weakening that category of protection.

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As the *Criminal Code* falls within the purview of my colleague the Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, I have taken the liberty of forwarding to him a copy of your letter for information and consideration.

We value your input as our Government seeks to protect the safety and security of all Canadians. Our Government will continue to stand up for law-abiding gun owners.

Thank you again for writing on these important issues.

Yours sincerely,



Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Robert Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada